



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 8 August 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
8 AUGUST 1967

1. South Vietnam

The presidential campaign is off to an unfortunate start, but is probably not seriously jeopardized. There is no evidence that the Saigon government was deliberately responsible for the fiasco on Sunday that caused civilian candidates to cancel a scheduled campaign tour. Actually, bad weather prevented the government plane carrying the candidates from landing where it was supposed to.

Predictably, some of the candidates are claiming the incident "proves" that the government has no intention of giving equal opportunity to all candidates. Tempers are cooling today, however, and several candidates are proposing resumption of campaigning.

2. North Vietnam

President Ho Chi Minh has dropped out of public sight for the longest period on record.

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3. Sudan

The Cairo press is saying that the Sudanese have concluded a military aid agreement with Moscow. This would be the first such Soviet assistance to this Arab country. We have no details; however, we do know that a Sudanese delegation arrived in Moscow about a week ago.

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4. Soviet Union

Recent satellite photography shows what is probably a new class of torpedo attack submarine under construction. This new craft is about 300 feet long.

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5. Soviet Union

There are more straws in the wind suggesting that Moscow is trying to get the Suez Canal opened.

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This strikes us as not surprising, since the USSR has been a major user of the Canal, sending some eight million tons of cargo through it in 1965. Also, the trip around Africa is adding about 16 days to Soviet shipments to Vietnam.

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